



November and December 2023 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In November, the Town issued (7) building permits totaling \$728.45. There were no building permits issued for new construction.

In December, the Town issued ten (10) building permits totaling \$20,411.68. There were five (5) building permits issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$35,679.93 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during October 2023 and \$55,528.97 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during November 2023.

We have a balance of \$3,001,013.36 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

There is currently one property scheduled for Sheriff's Sale in January 2024.

- 19 Church Street – Amounts owed to Town: \$112.32 in Property Taxes

Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- Dollar General, Rt. 13 – Preliminary Approved September 2023.
- Bridgeville Self Storage – Modifications to Minor Development plan, initially approved in 2019, Scheduled for P&Z January 2024.
- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Next stage is Final Development Plan Approval. Preliminary Approved in August 2022.
 - Now expected Spring 2024 – Received partial submission, pending DeIDOT
- Ghulam Dastgir– New Minor Development Plan – Preliminary Approved in May 2022.
 - Received partial submission, pending DeIDOT – Expected early 2024
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 – Next submission date unknown.

Board of Adjustment Hearings

On December 12, 2023, a Board of Adjustment hearing was held for two properties.

- 41 Harlequin Loop, submitted by Deanne Nacrelli - a request for a variance from permitted projections into the rear lot setback of 15' from 'not permitted' to 5'11" and reducing the required rear yard setback from 15' to 9'1" in the Heritage Shores RPC to build an enclosed patio at Tax Map #131-14.00-334.00.
- Parcel 6, Adams Road, submitted by Donald Cornish – a request variance from the minimum required lot area per dwelling of 9,000 square feet to



6,450 square feet in R-1 Single-Family Residential to build a single-family home at Tax Map #131-10.07-6.00.

The Board approved both variance applications.

Bridgeville Tote Bags and License Plates

Available until sold out – these limited-edition tote bags and vanity plates are available for \$20 each at the Bridgeville Public Library and Town Hall!



2024 Commission Election Calendar

Bridgeville's next election will be held on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. This election will be for three (3) Commission seats:

District 2 – Currently, Tom Moran

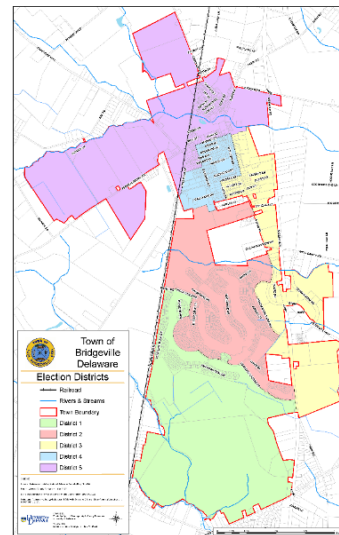
District 3 – Currently, John Tomeski

District 5 – Currently, Marlene Saunders

Deadline for Candidate Filing: February 2, 2024
(Notice for solicitation of candidates will run in early January)

Absentee Ballots: Available by **February 16, 2024**

Deadline for Voter Registration: February 20, 2024



The Bridgeville Municipal Election will be at the Bridgeville Public Library, 600 S. Cannon Street, between the hours of 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The Bridgeville Commissioners have established five Election Voting Districts for Municipal Elections. This year, Districts 2, 3, and 5 residents will each vote for a candidate from their district to represent them on the Commission. All districts are for full two-year terms. Please note that the Town underwent Redistricting in 2022, and the districts were changed. If you are uncertain of your district, a voting district map is available for review at Bridgeville Town Hall and online at Bridgeville.delaware.gov.

The Town is currently soliciting candidates in Districts 2, 3, and 5 for the 2024 Municipal Election. The following qualifications apply to all candidates: (1) U.S. Citizen at least 21 years of age on or before the Election date; (2) Bridgeville Resident and Registered Voter in the State of Delaware for at least one year immediately preceding the Election date; (3) Registered Voter in the State of Delaware; (4) Lives within the Election Voting District they wish to represent; (5) Not convicted of a Felony. Prospective candidates must file a written



letter of intent with the Commission President or Secretary, along with other filing requirements, by 4:00 PM on February 2, 2024. Questions may be directed to the Bridgeville Town Hall at (302) 337-7135 or townofbridgeville@gmail.com.

All required flyers, forms, and additional information can also be found at Bridgeville.delaware.gov under “Info” and “Elections.” Every U.S. citizen at least eighteen years of age and who has resided in Bridgeville for at least thirty days shall have one vote in their voting district during the election, provided they have registered in the State of Delaware. No person registered after February 20, 2024, shall be allowed to vote in the 2024 Municipal Election.

Winter Community Events Wrap-Up

Tree Lighting Ceremony - We held our second annual Tree lighting ceremony on November 28, 2023. While the weather was incredibly cold, a large crowd still came out for the event. Warm thanks go out to Bridgeville Public Library for collaborating with us once again - and for setting up your station with us. Also, thank you to the Friends of the Bridgeville Public Library for your donation of cookie trays. Karen Kemp and Scott Kemp, for hours of effort given, the firewood, and especially the tasty treats - the pear cider and pear bread budding were amazing. Woodbridge JROTC cadets for assistance. The Bridgeville Food Lion, for their generous contributions to the snacks. C.Vargas Construction LLC. for the fire pit and additional firewood - EVERYONE appreciated it! Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for the assistance - providing the brush truck and volunteers to oversee the fire and help keep everyone safe. Phillis Wheatley Elementary School Choir - we had around 70 kids come out and sing for the community, and they did a fantastic job! And to Mr. Propes, thank you for working with us on the event. T.S. Smith Orchard Point Market for the donation of the pear-themed basket for our raffle. Vanderwende's - for letting us use all of those straw bales. John Tomeski, for using his DJ equipment for the choir and announcements. Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville, Delaware, Amp Electric, members of the Woodbridge Football team, and Key Club for all of their efforts in getting the lighted trees up on our poles this weekend prior. And Commissioner's Tom Carey, Marlene Saunders, and Clifford Oliver for joining us and pushing the BIG switch and lighting our beautiful tree!



Christmas Parade – Our annual Christmas parade, held on the evening of Saturday, December 9, 2023, was a huge success. This year, we had so much fun with our “...And a partridge in a pear tree” theme. This was the largest parade we have ever had – with well over 80 entries and over 170 individual units. Thanks to Jim Weller and Colin Walls for the parade coverage on TV Delmarva. Clint Whaley, Eric Callaway from the Bridgeville Historical Society, and Jean Spratt from the Heritage Shores Garden Club for acting as our Parade Judges. Bobbie Chuckie’s Vending Stand and Frozen Farm for serving food and hot beverages during the parade – and our Police Department, Fire Police, DelDOT, and many neighboring towns for traffic control and safety measures.



Our 2023 Award Winners:

- Best Marching Band - Woodbridge Marching Band
- Best Walking Group - X-Treme Dance Studio
- Best Equestrian - Little Miss Apple Scrapple - Gracelyn Tucker
- Best Fire Department - Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
- Best Commercial Entry - JBS Construction
- Best Float - Shore Tint and More
- Best Car Club - Dirt Road Patriots
- Best Youth Group - Phillis Wheatley Elementary School

Santa House – New to this year’s events was the Santa House – in collaboration with the Bridgeville Public Library and C. Vargas Construction. We had four event days and evenings where the community could visit Santa, with free hot chocolate and crafts for the kids. One of our event dates even lined up perfectly with the Bridgeville Fire Department’s Santa run! This was a huge hit – and the event space was gorgeous – all thanks to the hard work of the entire C. Vargas Construction family. We hope we will have the opportunity to continue this event in the future!



Radar Speed Sign – Market Street

The radar/speed sign on Market Street ceased functioning in December. This sign was originally funded by Senator Pettyjohn and (then) Representative Dave Wilson in FY14. Representative Jesse Vanderwende has approved funding for the replacement of this sign in 2024. The funding request was approved on January 4, 2024, for an estimated cost of



\$4,100.00. We sincerely thank Representative Vanderwende for his continued support of Bridgeville.

DWSRF Application Approval – Small Diameter Waterline Replacements

We have received approval for funding for an approximately \$2 million dollar waterline project. This project is expected to be funded in FY25 (est. March) after initial requirements are fulfilled at the request of the State. The funding is for interest-only payments with loan forgiveness after project completion.

In the application, we identified from our Asset Management Plan that the waterlines located at John Street, S. Laws Street, Oak Street, and around the Phillis Wheatley Elementary School are the oldest in Town. Due to the small diameter, they are not sufficient to provide the necessary fire flow and pressure during an emergency, which could have catastrophic impacts on the school, apartments, and closely placed housing near these lines. Recent hydrant flow testing in 2022 confirmed this data. The project is intended to replace these lines. We have been seeking this funding for over two years, so this is an exciting and enormous opportunity for our water system and residents.

Storms and Flooding

As a reminder – when we receive heavy, persistent rain, there is a chance for flooding throughout Sussex County. Areas in the FEMA-designated flood zone are highly susceptible to flooding. For Bridgeville, this is defined as the area surrounding the Bridgeville Branch, which includes nearby roadways. We continue to spread this message – to NEVER drive through water that is on roadways. You never know if the road has been washed out or other dangers are lurking in the water – even the possibility of downed electric wires. We recommend signing up for emergency alerts from DEMA through the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) using Smart911. These alerts can avoid catastrophes and help save lives. Anyone can sign up to receive these alerts via text and/or email at dema.delaware.gov.



Updated Fees at Town Hall

After a comprehensive study of neighboring Towns and Libraries, we have updated some of the fees for services offered at Town Hall. This information was sent out in the January 2024 newsletter and is posted on our website and also directly on the payment window at Town Hall.

The Fee Schedule for all fees at Town Hall is as follows:

101 North Main Street, Bridgeville, Delaware 19933
Phone: (302) 337-7135 Fax (302) 337-7817
www.bridgeville.delaware.gov



Notary Services - \$5.00 (per stamp)

Fax - \$2.00 for up to 10 pages. To receive is per standard copy price. Fee includes transmission report copy. Cover page required.

Standard Copies - \$.25 per page

11"x17" to 12"x18" - \$1.00 per page

Scans - Standard size (8.5"x 11" and under) and emailed only, \$1.00 for up to 25 pages, (25-page increments) *Not for high resolution scans.

*We can also now provide higher resolution large format digital scans up to 24"x 36"- Scans will be emailed to you. We cannot print in large format.
\$2.00 per page.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD for availability for notary or scanning services.

Street Acceptance Request

We have received a formal request from the developer at Heritage Shores for final inspection for Street Acceptance for Phases 3A and part of 3B – to include Champions Drive, Legends Way, and Greenfair Way. Town Engineers, staff, and Developers will comb through the infrastructure in this area to identify any lingering issues and move towards official street acceptance, which will come to a future meeting when ready.

Comprehensive Plan Surveys

Please help with our Comprehensive Plan update! We strongly encourage you to participate – the more data, the better, as your voice helps direct the future of our community. **Surveys are now ready and available on our website** – bridgeville.delaware.gov. Look for a news post on the main page or the dedicated page that can be found under "Info," then "Important Information and Maps," and 2023 "Comprehensive Plan Update."

Paper surveys will be mailed out this month for anyone uncomfortable with online formats. They will be sent to all properties – including rentals. You do NOT need to complete the survey twice if you have already done so at an event or online; we just want to ensure everyone has fair access and opportunity to share thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager